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heating the mixture in the absence of a reduction catalyst to a temperature greater than 100° C to cause a reaction between said first starting material and said second starting material.

7. (Twice Amended) Carboxylic acid and amino acid or amino acid condensate reactants manufactured by a method comprising the steps of:

providing first starting material, said first starting material being carboxylic acids;

providing second starting material, said second starting material being one of amino acids and amino acid condensates; *D*

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mixing said first starting material and said second starting material in a high-pressure withstanding container under an aqueous system; and

heating the mixture in the absence of a reduction catalyst to a temperature greater than 100° C to cause a reaction between said first starting material and said second starting material.

REMARKS

In the February 13, 2002 Office Action, claims 1-7, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to distinguish them from the prior art. Thus, claims 1-7 and 11 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages that begin with the caption "**VERSION WITH**